

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IRAN FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker. I rise in strong support of H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom Support Act.

This legislation will strengthen bilateral sanctions and require timely action to penalize companies that violate the law. For too long, loopholes in the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act have impaired its effectiveness in starving international investment in Iran's oil and gas sector. Instead, investigations of sanctions violations have languished while subsidiaries of big oil companies like Halliburton have been able to do business in Iran without penalty.

The bill will also increase support for groups that promote human rights and political reform in Iran. This despotic regime has stifled a once vibrant civil society with economic stagnation, media censorship, and oppressive religious extremism. By investing in the Iranian people we will help bolster those who are fighting for a better future.

I am especially pleased that independent radio and television stations that broadcast in Iran will be eligible for assistance under this Act. Los Angeles, which is home to the largest Iranian expatriate community in the world, has a number of successful satellite broadcasting programs that are highly popular in Iran. They are a valuable untapped resource for promoting democratic ideas, pluralism, and countering anti-Western rhetoric in Iran's state-run media.

In the few months since the rigged election that brought him to power, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has managed to heighten propaganda to a level unseen since the revolution. With overt support for Hamas and Hezbollah and threats to destroy Israel and unleash suicide bombers against the United States and Britain, he has vocally advertised his government's nuclear pursuits and its prominent role as a state sponsor of terrorism.

The U.N. Security Council's upcoming meeting to reexamine Iran's nuclear activities will be a crucial opportunity for resolute action. Iran's stonewalling of the IAEA has been egregious. The scope and clandestine nature of its nuclear operations belie its claims to be pursuing a peaceful civilian program. Its announcement that it has successfully enriched uranium makes clear that it fully intends to accelerate its enrichment efforts. The international community must develop a consensus to intervene and deter Iran from continuing on this destructive path.

If we are to succeed, it is important that the Administration be more responsible in building its case against Iran than it was in pursuing action against Iraq. Unlike Iraq's nuclear program, which never materialized, Iran's program is real and much more dangerous. It is

disturbing that our credibility is already being shaken by revelations that the White House may once again be pursuing exaggerated intelligence and a drumbeat toward preemptive unilateral military strikes.

We cannot afford to alienate our allies or undermine the confidence and trust of the American people. As H.R. 282 shows, there are certain limited steps we can take on our own to have a positive impact. But there should be no illusion that it is in our interest or our ability to address this issue alone. Other nations have a stake in preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons and we must act in consultation.

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY SHILOH METROPOLITAN BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2006

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church on its Military Appreciation Day Service.

On behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida, and a grateful Nation, I am honored to join with the chorus of friends, neighbors, loved ones and this great church family, when we all come together this day to thank our men and women in uniform for their brave and unselfish sacrifices in defense of our Nation and of democracy. We owe their families our heartfelt thanks for their support and steadfastness, as their love ones stand in harms way to do a duty they have been sworn to uphold. These are surely not easy times; nor have they been called upon to demonstrate valor and bravery without consequence; yet it is that very valor we honor and pay tribute to.

Yours is the greater sacrifice so we may bask in the warm glow of freedom and hope. To date, there have been 114 Floridians who have served their country and paid the ultimate sacrifice, including 7 from Jacksonville, all of whom, and their families, took upon themselves to ensure that our freedoms are protected: from external and internal strife; from indifference and apathy and from being taken for granted, yet reminding that freedom is not free without sacrifice.

I wish to thank Pastor Darrell Gilyard and Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church for having the vision and love of God to set forth this day as a special day for all our brothers and sisters in arms. Thank this great church for their prayers, guidance and love.

It has been often said, "To whom much is given, much is required." We as a Nation and a people have been given much by the sacrifices and commitments of our men and women in uniform, therefore, we are required, and are honored to say, ever so humbly, and with great praise, Thank You, and may God

continue his blessings on each of you, your families, and on each of us as we join in this most honored and sacred occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DUBOIS CIRCLE

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 1, 2006

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th Anniversary of the Dubois Circle. In its 100th year, this organization's legacy of empowerment for women and African Americans continues to serve as a reminder that even a few devoted individuals can contribute to the fulfillment of America's promise of equity, justice, and freedom.

In 1905, William Edward Burghardt Dubois, known to many as W.E.B. Dubois, organized a meeting at the Lyric Theatre in Baltimore, Maryland, of 29 African American ministers, educators, and other professionals to form an organization known as the Niagara Movement—an organization founded to address the social, political, and economic injustices faced by African Americans. The Niagara Movement continued until 1910, when it became the foundation for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

It was in this climate that the Dubois Circle came into being. A group of African American women in Baltimore, Maryland, were specially selected by Dr. Garnet Waller, a founder of the Niagara Movement, to serve on a special auxiliary committee as hostesses for a meeting. On January 6, 1906, this special committee of talented young women grew to become a stand alone African American women's organization named the Dubois Circle. Not only did the name honor the revered writer and activist W.E.B. Dubois, but it also served as a declaration of the ideals and purpose for which the group was founded.

At a time when women did not yet enjoy the full benefits of citizenship such as the right to vote, this group of trailblazing women would not be relegated to the sidelines of civic engagement. They met frequently to discuss local, national, and global issues and how they could affect them. To carry out a wide range of programs that covered topics from race to business, the members themselves often served as researchers, reporters, editors, and commentators.

Throughout its history, the Dubois Circle has remained focused on addressing racial problems in our society. This commitment has demanded its involvement in issues tied to education, the media, mental health, and youth delinquency.

The Circle has achieved many impressive successes on these fronts. For instance, in 1949, the Circle sent a letter to the Maryland Governor and Commissioner of Higher Education urging the University of Maryland system to open its graduate departments to African Americans. Because of these efforts and

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